

Message Text

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42

ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:MHMAUGHAN:JFC

APPROVED BY NEA - MR. ATHERTON

NEA/ARN - MR. DAY

PM/MC - ASUCHINSKY(PHONE)

S/S -LCJOHNSTONE

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P 021830Z AUG 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 183062

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: US, SY, ESTC, BEXP, BTIO

SUBJECT: MILITARY SALES TO SYRIA

REF: A. DAMASCUS 2785; B. DAMASCUS 2821

FOR AMBASSADOR MURPHY

1. IN VIEW OF YOUR REQUEST (PARA 5, REF B) TO BE KEPT INFORMED ON MC LICENSE REQUESTS AND ADVISORY OPINIONS IN CONNECTION WITH PROPOSED ARMS SALES TO SYRIA, FOR YOUR BACKGROUND ONLY, FOLLOWING IS FACTUAL ACCOUNT OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS HERE. ANY GUIDANCE FOR YOU WILL BE SUBJECT OF SEPTTEL.

2. BOEING REPS, IN INFORMAL MEETING WITH NEA/ARN ON QUESTION OF CHINOOKS (REF A) WERE GIVEN NEGATIVE ASSESSMENT OF CHANCES OBTAINING DEPARTMENT APPROVAL FOR SALE. THEY HAVE NEVERTHELESS SUBMITTED A REQUEST, TO WHICH NO RESPONSE YET MADE, FOR ADVISORY OPINION ON THIS ISSUE.

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3. SUPER FRELON HELICOPTER (REF A) WAS DEVELOPED BY FRENCH WITH ONLY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM SIKORSKY. SIKORSKY ITSELF HAD NO LICENSE TO DEVELOP THE AIRCRAFT. U. S. EXPORT CONTROL REGULATIONS THUS DO NOT APPLY TO MARKETING OF FRELON.

4. REGARDING SENSOR EQUIPMENT (REF B), DEPARTMENT HAS JUST (JULY 31) RECEIVED REQUEST FOR ADVISORY OPINION ON SALE OF SENSOR DEVICES TO SYRIA BUT HAS AS YET MADE NO RESPONSE.

5. FINALLY, ON ISSUE OF U.S. GUN MOUNTS (REF B), DEPARTMENT HAS TO DATE RECEIVED NO RPT NO REQUEST FOR ADVISORY OPINION ON THIS PROPOSED SALE TO SYRIA. ONLY CONTACT WITH EMERSON ELECTRIC ON THE QUESTION WAS TELEPHONED REQUEST FROM COMPANY TO PM/MC FOR "INFORMAL" OPINION ON PROSPECTS FOR DEPARTMENT APPROVAL OF SALE. REPLY WAS INCONCLUSIVE, BUT INCLUDED SUGGESTION THAT IF COMPANY DESIRED MORE EXPLICIT RESPONSE, IT SHOULD REQUEST AN ADVISORY OPINION. COMPANY TO DATE HAS NOT DONE SO.

6. WE SHALL KEEP YOU ADVISED. INGERSOLL

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